

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 DHA-02 OIC-02 CU-04 AGR-10

DOT-00 HEW-06 HUD-02 INT-05 USIE-00 FEA-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 CEQ-01

ERDA-07 COME-00 EB-07 EPA-04 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05

OES-06 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /125 W

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O R 101815Z SEP 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2310

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS GENEVA 7141

PASS HUD OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECE, ECLA, UNGA

SUBJ: ECE - FOLLOW-UP TO HABITAT VANCOUVER CONFERENCE:

DISCUSSIONS AT ECE HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING

COMMITTEE 37TH SESSION

1. WITH REGARD TO US PARTICIPATION AT ECLA MEETING IN
MEXICO CITY EARLY NEXT WEEK, RECAP BELOW OF ECE DISCUSSION
IS PROVIDED AS OF POSSIBLE HELP TO US DEL PREPARATIONS.

2. USSR STUDY TOUR CONTRETEMPS
(SEPTELS) WAS DOMINANT ISSUE AT THIS
SESSION, US DEL PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN NEGOTIATED TEXT WHICH
NOTED VANCOUVER REPORT AND AVOIDED DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES ISSUES.
MOST MEMBERS WERE CLEARLY NOT PREPARED TO SUPPORT ANY RINGING
ENDORSEMENTS.

(SEE PARA 4 BELOW). ONE CANADIAN
FELT THEY GOT "AS MUCH AS COULD BE EXPECTED" AT ECE.

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CANADIANS WERE APPARENTLY UNDER MORE RESERVED

INSTRUCTIONS THAN EXPECTED AND DO NOT PLAN TO SEND A CONTINGENT FROM CANADA TO ECLA, BUT PROBABLY WILL HAVE EMB OFFICER COVER AT MEXICO CITY AND READ STATEMENT WHICH WILL NOT BE "TOO COMMITTAL". SWEDES SEEMED RELATIVELY SUBDUED AND DID NOT MAKE ANY OBVIOUS INFORMAL ATTEMPTS TO GET ECE "ENDORSEMENTS". THEIR CHIEF HABITAT CONTINGENT (SVENSON AND STURE PERSSON) ARRIVED ONLY EVENING BEFORE RELEVANT DISCUSSION ON FLOOR.

3. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS TAKING THE FLOOR EXPRESSED THEIR GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH VANCOUVER, AND WELCOMED EMPHASIS PLACED BY THE CONFERENCE ON FOLLOW-UP WORK BY REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS. GENERALLY, SEVERAL FELT THAT ECE/HBP COMMITTEE SHOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY TO NEW CHALLENGE AND SHOULD ASSESS HOW IT MIGHT STREAM-LINE ITS WORK PROGRAMS, WORK PROCEDURES, AS WELL AS ITS STRUCTURE, TO INCREASE ITS EFFECTIVENESS AS MAIN REGIONAL BODY FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION IN FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS. QUESTION OF POSSIBLE CHANGE OF NAME OF THE COMMITTEE WAS DISCUSSED BUT GENERAL VIEW EMERGED THAT NO QUICK CHANGE SHOULD BE MADE ALONG THESE LINES AS MORE CONSIDERATION WAS NEEDED, ESPECIALLY AS RELEVANT DECISIONS HAD TO BE TAKEN AT THE UNGA THIS AUTUMN, AND BY THE ECE IN EARLY 1977.

4. THE FINAL COMMITTEE REPORT WILL SHOW THAT IT:

"(A) NOTED THE 'REPORT OF HABITAT, UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS' (A/CONF 7015) AND SUGGESTED THAT ECE GOVERNMENTS CONSIDER IT WHEN REVIEWING THEIR EXISTING POLICIES AND STRATEGIES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS;

(B) EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS READY TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE AND TO COOPERATE WITH GLOBAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS;

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(C) CONSIDERED THAT SOME OF THE PROJECTS IN ITS PROGRAMME OF WORK SHOULD BE GIVEN GREATER URGENCY OR POSSIBLY MODIFIED TO RESPOND TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE HABITAT CONFERENCE. IT AGREED THEREFORE THAT AT ITS 38TH SESSION IN SEPT 1977, IT WOULD AGAIN CONSIDER THAT FOLLOW-UP TO THE CONFERENCE IN THE LIGHT OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION IN AUTUMN 1976. TO PREPARE FOR THIS DISCUSSION, ECE MEMBERS WOULD BE INVITED TO SUBMIT THEIR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES IN THE ORIENTATION AND SPECIFIC PROJECTS IN THE PROGRAMME OF WORK PRIORITIES, AS WELL AS IN THE METHODS OF WORK, TO THE ECE SECRETARIAT BEFORE 31 JAN 1977....."

5. COMMITTEE INVITED G. SVENSON (SWEDEN) AND C. KOTELA (POLAND), CHIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF ECE REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS IN JUNE 1975, TO PREPARE REPORT AS BASIS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF FOLLOW-UP WORK AT 38TH SESSION. (BOTH ACCEPTED). CANADA WAS INVITED TO HELP SELECT FILMS FROM HABITAT LIBRARY OF AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIAL OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THE ECE/HBP COMMITTEE, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF LAND USE PROBLEMS AND POLICIES WHICH IS A SUBJECT FOR "IN-DEPTH" DISCUSSION AT THE 1977 SESSION. (AS THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO "IN DEPTH" DISCUSSION OF HOUSING AND ITS IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS TOPIC, UK SHOWED FILM ENTITLED "AS GOOD AS NEW".)

6. ECE EXEC SECY STANOVNIK HAD EARLIER INTRODUCED AGENDA ITEM WITH WARM WELCOME TO HABITAT SECY GENERAL PENALOSA WHO ATTENDED THIS SEGMENT OF ECE/HBP 37TH SESSION. STANOVNIK, IN REFERRING TO HABITAT REITERATED THEME OF CONFERENCE AS IMPORTANT AND LOGICAL LINK IN CHAIN OF UN WORLD CONFERENCES ON KEY PROBLEMS OF HUMANITY AND CONSTITUTED MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO GENERAL UN EFFORTS, IN PARTICULAR AS AN INPUT TO THE UNGA'S DISCUSSION OF A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER. DETERMINED ACTION BY GOVTS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS WOULD NOT ONLY HELP RESOLVE MAJOR SOCIAL PROBLEMS BUT ALSO CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO SOLUTION
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OF UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM NOW PREVAILING IN A LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES.

7. PENALOSA PRESENTED MAIN RESULTS OF HABITAT, ESPECIALLY AS THEY RELATED TO ACTION PROPOSED FOR REGIONAL BODIES. HE WELCOMED TIMING OF ECE/HBP SESSION WHICH ENABLED ECE REGION TO BE FIRST IN RESPONDING TO THE VANCOUVER CONFERENCE RESOLUTION PROPOSING REGIONAL MEETINGS TO BE CONVENED IF POSSIBLE BEFORE 1976 UNGA SESSION TO DISCUSS HABITAT FOLLOW UP. HE REFERRED TO ECLA SESSION AS NEXT IN THIS SERIES AND EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING MOMENTUM OF CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING ACHIEVED IN PREPARATIONS FOR HABITAT IN THE FOLLOW UP ON GLOBAL, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL LEVELS. HE FELT IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT UNGA STRONGLY ENDORSE OUTCOME OF

VANCOUVER AND THAT DECISIONS BE TAKEN BY UNGA ON PROBLEMS NOT RESOLVED AT HABITAT, ESPECIALLY PROBLEMS OF INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGMENTS FOR FOLLOW UP WORK ON GLOBAL LEVEL. CONFERENCE HAD FULFILLED ITS MANDATE BUT IT WAS NOW UP TO GOVTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE DECISIONS. ECE GOVTS, WITH THEIR LONG EXPERIENCE IN FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS DEVELOPMENT, HAD PARTICULARLY HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE ACTION AND DECISIONS IN FOLLOW UP TO VANCOUVER CONFERENCE. ECE REGION, BOTH COLLECTIVELY AND BY BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS, COULD ALSO HELP SUBSTANTIALLY IN ASSISTING OTHER REGIONS IN SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCE AND PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS DEVELOPMENT. PENALOSA'S EFFORTS DID NOT DO MUCH CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING AT THIS ECE/HBP SESSION. HE NEVER HAD A CHANCE. CATTO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HABITAT, HOUSING, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA07141
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760342-1054
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760974/aaaackzc.tel
Line Count: 185
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 FEB 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <18 JAN 2005 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECE - FOLLOW-UP TO HABITAT VANCOUVER CONFERENCE: DISCUSSIONS AT ECE HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE 37TH SESSION
TAGS: SENV, OCON, AU, ECE, UNGA, ECLA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006